(iv) The crude oil production during 2001-02 in Assam has been estimated to be around 5.12 MMT.

(b) To boost the oil/gas exploration in Assam, contracts have been signed with private companies for three exploration blocks in Assam namely AAP- ON/94/1 (partly in Arunachal Pradesh), CR-ON-90/1 and AA-ON-07 (partly in Nagaland).

Exploration works in these blocks has not yet commenced.

(c) Exploration activity is an ongoing exercise and is to be carried out as per the terms of the Production Sharing Contracts.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No Sir. Exploration of hydrocarbons is a continuous activity as per the work programme chalked out by the companies.

LPG Dealerships in Lambagaon and Pragpur in H.P.

4232. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 116 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th February, 2000 and state:

(a) the number of applications received for dealership for Pragpur and Lambagaon, Station-wise details; and

(b) what is the criteria for selection of dealers for distributorships for these stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) 32 applications were received for the LPG distributorship advertised at Pragpur under 'SC category and 6 applications were received for the LPG distributorship advertised under Defence (Women) category at Lambagaon.

(b) Selection of distributorships advertised by the Oil Companies is made by the Dealer Selection Board on merit on the basis of interview. Following criteria is laid down for assessing *inter-se* merit of the candidates in the interview:—

(i) Personality, Business ability and Salesmanship;

(ii) Capability to arrange finances;

(iii) Educational qualification and general level of intelligence;

(iv) Capability to provide infrastructure and facilities (land, godown, showroom, etc.);

(v) General Assessment.

Pakistan Consent on the Proposal of Laying Irani Gas Pipeline to India

† 4233. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to st.ate:

(a) whether Pakistan has accorded its consent on the proposal of laying of Irani Gas Pipe Line through its soil upto India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the project of laying of gas pipe line is likely to be undertaken;

(d) what amount is likely to be spent on this project; and

(e) by when this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The Government of Pakistan has not sent any formal communication in this regard.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Desulphurised Petrol and Diesel

4234. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have introduced another Euro-II friendly fuels, desulphurised brands of petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, cost difference for litre on desulphurised petrol and diesel, compared to conventional products; and

(c) whether with the desulphurisation, the echo-friendly life of petrol and diesel driven vehicle is expected to increase, if so, to what extent?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.